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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/000,065	12/04/2001	Yoshiaki Kinoshita	Q67493	9595

7590 01/20/2004  
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

SAJOUS, WESNER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2676

DATE MAILED: 01/20/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/000,065

Applicant(s)

KINOSHITA, YOSHIAKI

Examiner

Wesner Sajous

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### Claim Objections

Claims 2-5 objected to because of the following informalities: In the claims, "claim1" should read --claim 1--. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dermer (US Pat. 5668931).

Considering claim 1, Dermer, at fig. 1, discloses a trapping area creating method comprises a division step (as performed by 128 of fig. 1 and item 410 of fig. 4) of dividing an image represented in form of polygons to which colors are applied, into a plurality of image areas by a straight line passing through vertexes of the polygons (see *figs. 2, 7 and figs 17-20, and col. 4, lines 50-69, cols. 6, lines 32-65, and col. 11, lines 24-67, wherein the gaps in between the lines or regions 1 & 2 represent the plurality of image areas*); a decision step (*e.g., as performed by the functions of items 122 and 124/items 450 and 440 of fig. 4*) for deciding a propriety of trapping for each pair of image areas adjacent to one another in at least one direction of the predetermined two directions (*e.g., horizontal or vertical directions*), with respect to the plurality of image

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areas wherein the image is divided (see *col. 8, line 45 to col. 10, line 5*); and a trapping area creating step (as performed by items 430 and 450 of *fig. 5*) of creating a ban-shaped trapping area extending along a boundary of two image areas constituting a pair of image areas decided as being suitable for a trapping in the decision step (as depicted by *figs. 14-15*. See also *figs. 3{a-b}*, and *col. 10, lines 6-30*).

Re claim 2, Dermer, at *figs. 2 and 7*, discloses divide the image using, as a straight line, straight lines extending in the same directions as the predetermined two directions passing through the vertexes of the polygon, and sides of the polygon (see *figs. 2, 7 and figs 17-20*).

Re claim 3, Dermer discloses the equivalence for the decision step adopts, as the predetermined two directions, an upper and lower direction and a right and left direction of the image (as depicted in *figs. 17-20*). See *col. 12, lines 25-60, and col. 14, line 44 to col. 15, line 67*

Re claim 4, Dermer, at *figs. 18-19*, depicts the equivalence for deciding the propriety of trapping in accordance with a difference between colors of two image areas constituting the pair of image areas. See *col. 9, lines 45-55*.

As per claim 5, Dermer, at *fig. 5*, depicts the equivalence for performing the trapping area creating step that creates, as the trapping area, an area interposed between a line (as depicted in *fig. 12*) constituting the boundary and a line obtained when the line (first occurring) is subjected to a parallel translation.

Claim 6 is an apparatus claim reciting the method of claim 1; it is, therefore, rejected under the same rationale as claim 1.

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Claim 7 is a computer program performing the method of claim 1; it is, therefore, rejected under the same rationale as claim 1.

**Conclusion**

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

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or (703) 308-6606 (for informal or draft communications, please

label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

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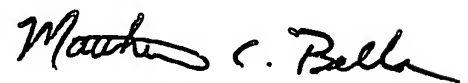
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Washington, DC 20231

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **Wesner Sajous** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-5857**. The examiner can also be reached on Monday through Thursdays and on alternate Fridays between 9:00AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached at (703) 308-6829. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 308-6606.

  
MATTHEW C. BELLA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

  
11/14/03